

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 289

By Briggs

A RESOLUTION to honor the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, in 1919, the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified after decades of social unrest over unregulated alcohol and its harmful impact on society. The new amendment prohibited the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1933, the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified, giving the states sole authority to regulate alcohol within their borders; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, the General Assembly created a state alcohol licensing system, which was administered by the Tennessee Department of Finance and Taxation; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Public Chapter 257 created the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) to focus on alcohol regulation and enforcement for the purposes of eliminating illegal bootlegging and establishing a safe and orderly alcohol marketplace in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TABC consists of three commissioners, who are appointed by the governor and represent each grand division of the State of Tennessee. The current commissioners are Chairwoman Ashleigh Roberts of Middle Tennessee, Commissioner David Tomita of East Tennessee, and Commissioner John Hamilton of West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, daily operations of the TABC are administered by Executive Director Russell Thomas and Assistant Director Tabatha Blackwell; law enforcement operations are administered by Chief Law Enforcement Officer Bond Tubbs and Deputy Chief Law Enforcement Officer Brent Clayton; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated staff, consisting of three commissioners, thirty-two administrative and licensing staff, and fifty-five law enforcement staff, honorably serve the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, the TABC currently permits over 140,000 individuals and licenses over 9,000 businesses engaged in the manufacture, distribution, and sales of alcoholic beverages. The ninety-member staff ensures alcohol is being delivered and sold to the public in a safe manner; and

WHEREAS, there are four regional offices across Tennessee, which are located in Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga; from these offices, staff inspect and monitor licensees in all ninety-five counties of the State; and

WHEREAS, the TABC partners with local law enforcement agencies to ensure minors are not sold alcohol and state and local laws are being followed; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we recognize this esteemed agency on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary, commend the administration and staff for their meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.